THE LAKE CREEK LETTER

Volume 10, Number 1 WINTER 1999-2000

12

Dead Indian Soda Springs was a popular place for Lake Creek residents to get together and socialize in the summertime. In this photo, taken sometime around 1915, the two girls in the center are Blanch Miller, foreground, and Grace Miller. The identities of the three other women and the nicely bearded gentleman on the right are unknown. The photo was provided by Pat Watson, daughter of Grace Miller, who married William Raymond Crawford in 1917. If anybody can identify the other people in the photo, please contact The Lake Creek Historical Society at 826-1513.

Lake Creek Historical Society

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The Lake Creek Historical Society operates as a nonprofit Oregon corporation qualified by the IRS as a charitable organization as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Code. All contributions (less $5) to the LCHS are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. The Society maintains and adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity.

Administrative and membership offices are at the Lake Creek Pioneer Hall, 1739 South Fork Little Butte Creek Road, Eagle Point, Oregon 97524, telephone (541) 826-1513.
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The Lake Creek Historical Society maintains an affiliate membership with the Oregon Historical Society, 1230 SW Park Avenue West, Portland, Oregon 97205, telephone (503) 222-1741.

Interim director brings enthusiasm, expertise to her post in Pioneer Hall

Executive Director Susan Shoemaker is taking a four-month leave from the Society to be with her 91-year-old father in Mexico. The Society is fortunate to have found a capable replacement, Marian Angele.

Marian works part time at the Talent Historical Society as the director of the Talent Museum.

A 1994 graduate of the University of Oregon with a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, Marian lives in Ashland with her daughter.

"She brings many skills to the Lake Creek Historical Society and is familiar with the process of the local Jackson County Historical Museums Association," said Shoemaker. "Her enthusiasm and interest in history make her a great match for the job. She's knowledgeable about the oral history process, grant writing and the other aspects of our work."

Marian invites residents to drop in and visit with her so she can meet the people of the community. She will be at Pioneer Hall two days a week.

Calendar of Events

Monthly Meetings

Lake Creek Historical Society, third Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Creek Rural Fire District, fourth Monday, 1 p.m.

Annual Events

March 4	Potluck Lunch Noon followed by Archeology Exhibit with Slide Show
June 10 - 11	Civil War Reenactment
TBA	Annual Doll Show
September 10	Lake Creek Rural Fire District Annual Fundraiser BBQ

10 years and still going strong

It seems a short time ago that a group of neighbors got together to save the Lost Creek Covered Bridge and ended up forming the Lake Creek Historical Society as well. But this year mark's the Society's 10th anniversary.

Thanks to the hard work of a lot of volunteers and with support from Jackson County, we've accomplished a lot in the past 10 years.

In addition to successfully saving the covered bridge from demolition, we have a beautifully remodeled hall, the Nimrod Charley cabin has been moved down to Lake Creek and restored, and we have a growing collection of artifacts, including a library of oral histories.

The Society puts on several successful community events each year, and is involved in keeping present-day Lake Creek as vibrant as it was a century ago.

Another active summer

It was a busy summer for the Lake Creek Historical Society. The Civil War Reenactment June 12-13 was an interesting and enjoyable time, despite the unfortunate last-minute withdrawal of half of the participants who had committed to be in this event. Despite this disappointing setback, the folks who were here put on an impressive show.

The Northwest Civil War Council from Molalla, Oregon came in costume, set up camp and recreated scenes of wartime camp life. Saturday's main event was a live battle reenactment played out on the field behind the Lake Creek Store.

Michael Burke of Living History Productions, LLC, of Klamath Falls, gave a fascinating

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PHOTO COURTESY JEANNIE BRUCE

It's a warm summer day and all is peaceful in this Civil War camp scene, which was played out in Lake Creek June 12-13 by the Northwest Civil War Council from Molalla. The scene will be repeated June 10-11.

LAKE CREEK LETTER

The *Lake Creek Letter* is published biannually by the Lake Creek Historical Society and distributed to members and others as designed by the Board of Directors. Subscription is free with membership. Single issues and back copies are available for $1 each.

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Address all editorial communications to: *Lake Creek Letter*, c/o Lake Creek Historical Society, 1739 South Fork Little Butte Creek Road, Eagle Point, Oregon 97524.

We are happy to consider queries and contributions. All material must be submitted with the writer's name, address and telephone. We cannot return material submitted unless a postage-paid return envelope is included. The Lake Creek Historical Society will take care with all materials submitted, but cannot be responsible for loss or damage.

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10th year will be yet another productive one

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talk in costume with a replica of the casket of Abraham Lincoln. All in all it was a fascinating, interesting fun two days.

In fact it was so much fun and drew so much enthusiasm from those who attended that we are going to have another Civil War Reenactment June 10-11. The Society has been assured that we will have plenty of soldiers and camp life displayed in a bigger and better production. Watch for information as the day draws closer. If you would like to help, call Jeannie Bruce at 826-8309.

Art Show another success

The Annual Art Show July 31-Aug. 1 was again a huge success. As has become a tradition, the art show was held in conjunction with a history-related event.

This year visitors were able to take a "step back in history" to frontier times. Company B of the 1ST U.S. Cavalry gave demonstrations three times each day, and the Little Butte Mountain Men set up a campsite with their authentic gear from the early 1800s.

This year's art show event is in the planning stages, and the Society is looking for suggestions, artists and activities to go along with the art show. Your ideas are welcome.

A useful gift

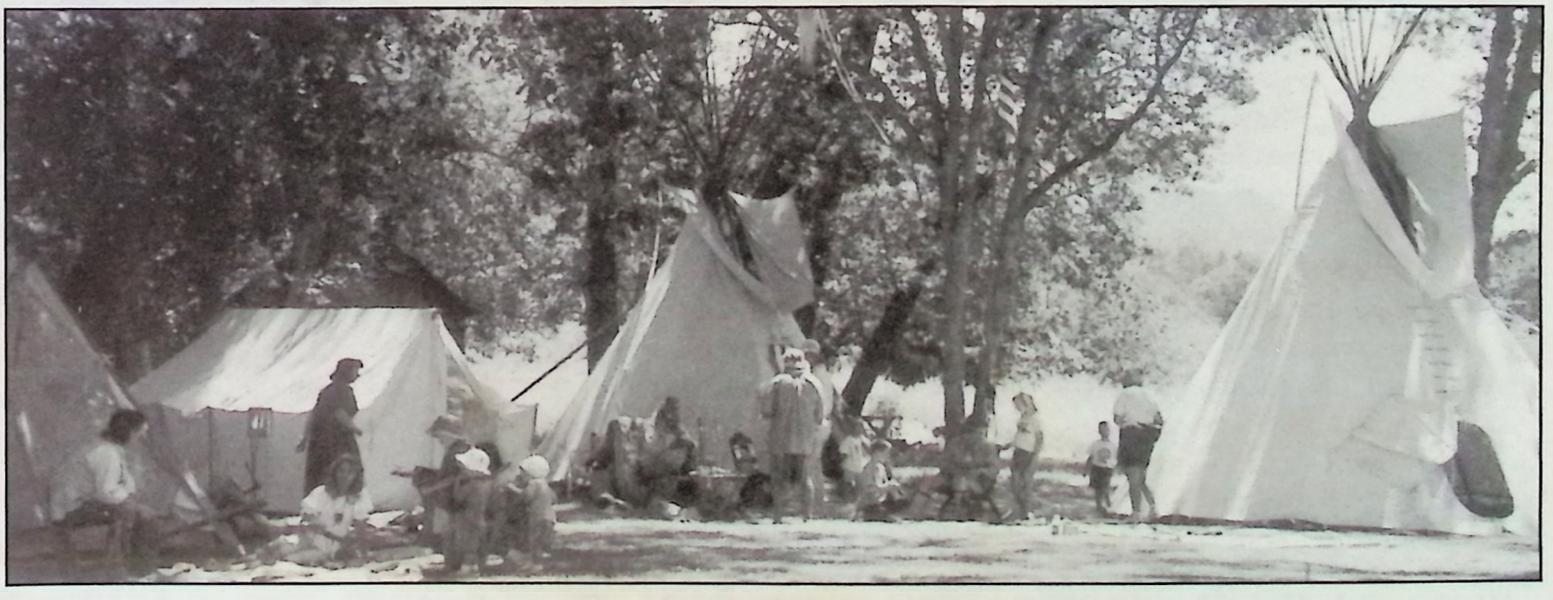
The Lake Creek Historical Society Millennium Calendar, featuring the beautiful Jeannie Bruce photograph of Pioneer Hall, has been a popular benefit of membership.

Besides decorating your home or office, these calendars make a great gift for friends, relatives and business associates.

You can buy additional calendars for $3 each, and each one you buy is a gift with more than one recipient. Your purchase supports important Society projects. Call 826-1513 to order your additional Millennium Calendars.

History comes alive in Lake Creek each summer. A companion event to the art show July 31-Aug. 1 was a demonstration by White City Company B of the 1ST U.S. Cavalry, shown above doing maneuvers and at right.

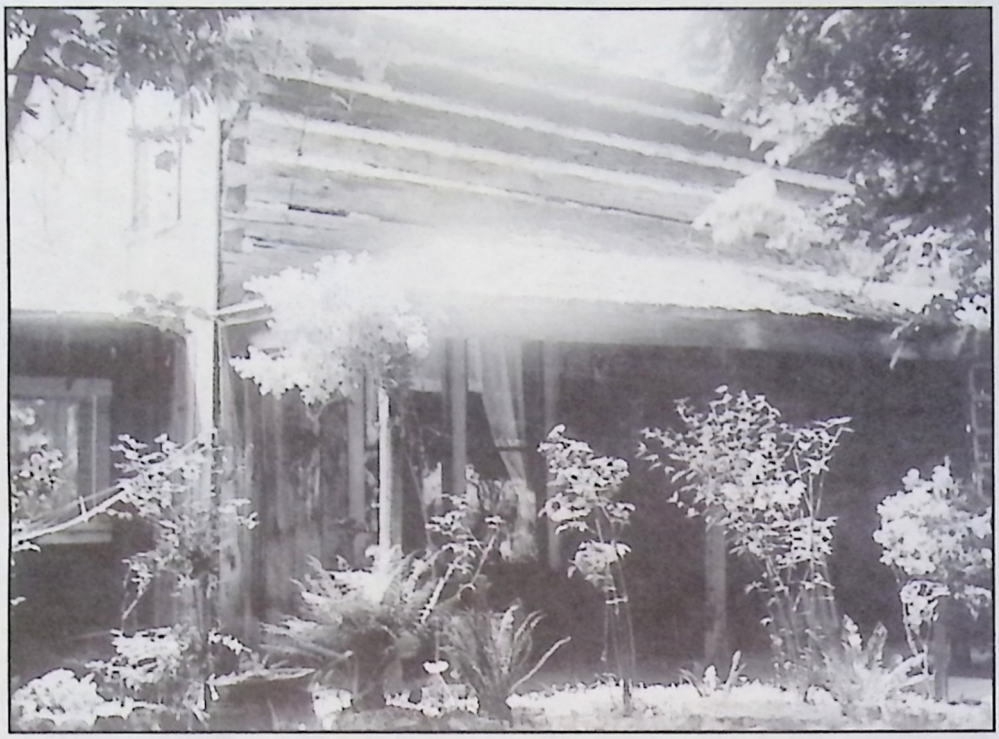
The Little Butte Mountain men, below, also gave a taste of frontier times during the art show, displaying their period clothing and crafts. Be sure to mark the dates of this year's Civil War reenactment and art show and enjoy the festivities.



Is there a Lake Creek Museum in the future? It's a possibility

The Board of Directors is considering getting another structure to move near the Pioneer Hall and Charley Cabin to use as a museum. The Society has had many offers of items for display if there was an appropriate place to display them.

One promising candidate was the old Hostettler Cabin, but the present owners wish to keep it on their property. Another suggestion has been to turn the Pioneer Hall into a museum. With the completion of the Lake Creek Learning Center, it would not leave the community without a meeting place.



The Hostettler House, named for its last resident, Ernest Hostettler, is shown here in a photo taken when John Alfred and Elva Jane Miller lived there. The parents of Grace Miller, John and Alva moved into the house before 1900. The photo was provided by Pat Watson, Grace's daughter.

Whatever solution is found, it will be better than having local artifacts leave the community.

In the meantime, the Society is considering getting more locked display cases to add to the existing ones in Pioneer Hall. Whatever solution is found, it will be better than having local artifacts leave the community.

Anyone wishing to use a display case for a small exhibit about local history is welcome to do so. The Society can reproduce any pictures you might have, and is planning to host a workshop on family heirloom care.

Cow calling video project gets boost

This year the Society received a $2,000 grant from the Trust Management Services, LLC, of Waldport, to go toward the video/historical production of cattle calling. As many of you recall at our Art Show two years ago we had a great turnout and a lot of local cow-callers showed up. Those calls were taped, as were interviews with some of the old-time ranchers. The project could benefit from local knowledge, photos and film footage of early cattle drives and cattle-calls, so if you have anything you think might be of use, please give us a call.

The next step is to film local ranchers doing their calls out on the range in the spring and fall.

The mystery of the signature tablecloth

The new owners of the Ben Gardner home found a tablecloth with the signatures of many early Lake Creek residents. Initial research into the history of this "document" indicates it may have been a gift at a baby shower for Margaret and Ben Gardener on the arrival of their new son Benny.

If anyone has information on this tablecloth, please contact us. The information in parentheses is notes from research thus far.

Babe Abrams
Alice Adamson
Lena Ages(??)
Edith Allen (moved to Butte Falls Hwy '44 from CA/AZ,) friend of Margaret Gardner '45 in Home Extension)

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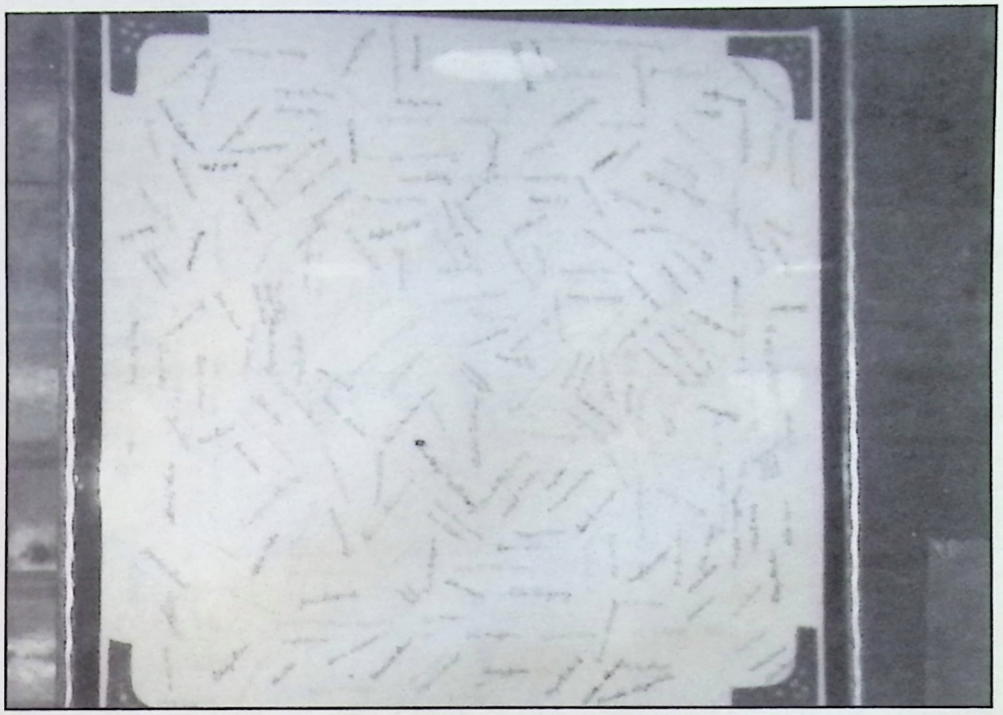
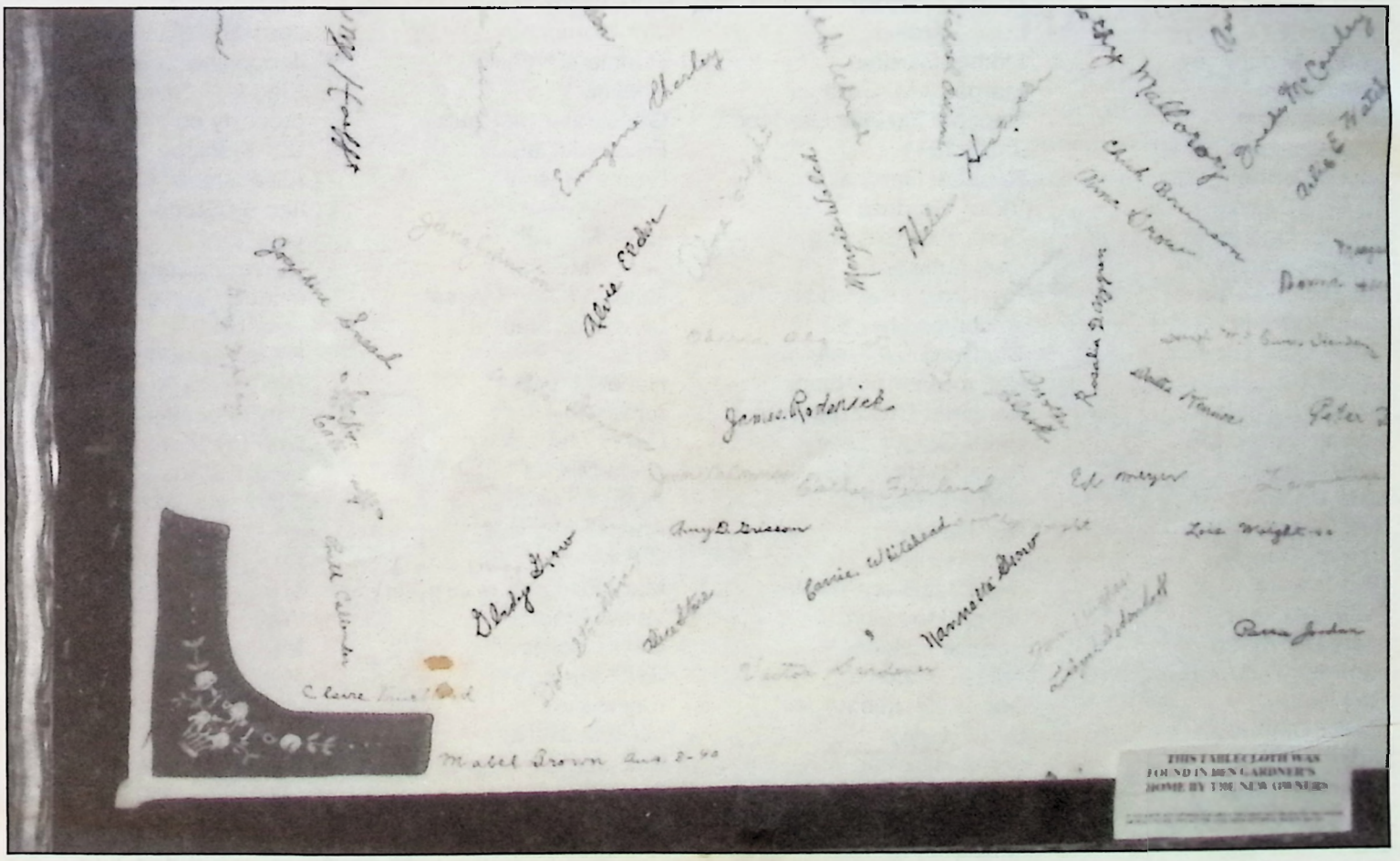


The tablecloth, above, as displayed in Pioneer Hall. Below is a close-up of a section of the tablecloth.



Signers include many familiar local names

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Odessa Alquist
Cora Anderson
Benny (child's writing in pencil, probably son of Ben & Margaret Gardner)
Ethel Bretthauer
Geo. B. Brown
Mabel Brown Aug. 8-40
Chick Brunson
Donna Brunson
Gene T. Brunson
Virginialee Brunson
Sadie Bunker
Louis Burch
Bill Callender
Billy Callender
Patricia Callender
Vivan Callihan
Ruth Carroll
Dee Carter
Harley R. Carter
Harley R. Carter Jr.
Charmayne Lea Charley
Ellyn L. Charley
Emogene Charley
Leland M. Charley
Grace Clark
Dorothy Clark
Opal Collins
Joyce Conner (??)
Ira Ova Conner
Juanita Conner (mother of Joyce Conner (??)
Ina Thomas Connor
Hilma Connor
Gene Crandell
Dorothy Crandell
Evelyn Cullertson
Jimmy Cullertson
Leila Damon
Elda Damon
Jim Damon
Shirley Damon
Ann Davies
Peter De Young
Mary De Young
Kenneth Dufour (lived on Ball Road)
Mellie Dufour
Terry Dufour
Christine Duncan
Lloyd Dodenhoff
Sammie Dodenhoff
Marcia May Dodenhoff '55
Alvie Edler
Gus Edler
Bill Elder
Nancy Elder
Marian Farrel
Fred Fernland
Esther Fernland
Tessie Fisher
Jane Flemming
Irwin Ford
Mildred Ford
Ed Forester
Dolly Forester
Jacqueline Fortin
Ruth Fortin
H H Fox
Minnie Fox
Beatrice Frey
Geo. H. Frey
Irving Frey
Arthur Gardner
Ben Gardner
Diane Gardner
Harriet Gardner
Lucy Gardner
Mother Gardner
Margaret M. Gardner
Raphael Tio Dits Gardner
Jan 1 1941
Raphael Gardner Jr.
Victor Gardner
Bonnie Lu Goching
Amy Grissom
Hal Grow (owned service station on Hwy 62
Gladys Grow (wife of Hal, mother of Nannette
Nannette Grow (parents Hal & Gladys Grow
Alma Haight
Herbert Haight
Coy Halsey
Mike Hanley
Hazel McEwen Hanley
Wilma Hanscom
Bernice Hatcher
Arlie E. Hatcher
Donna Heckenburger
Betty Hefley
Verna Hickman
Linn Hickman
Ted J. Hoefft
June Hoefft
Ethel Hoefft
Helen Hosteler
Betty Howell
Marjory Huff
Fern Hughes
Hugh Huntley
Marjory Hunt
Oliver Hunt
Edwin Hunt
Henry Jenkins
Viola Jenkins
Jim Johnson
Louise Johnston
Jane Johnston
Eleanor Jossey
Pattie Jordan
C J Kelley
Grace Kelley
Rhonda Kelley
Dallie Kenner (Hwy 62 owned Café near Ben Gardner's Welding Shop)
Dorothy Malloroy
Jean Martinson (lived on Ball Road, Home Extension)
Jim Martinson
Ronnie Martinson
Thelma May
Genevieve McCauley
Freda McCauley
Emma Messal
W.G. Messal
Neva Messal
Lester Messal
Mildred (Cox) Messal
Lawrence Messal
Ed Meyer
Hazel Meyer
Alma Meyer
Henry Meyer
Anna Millard
George Millard
Alva Milligan
C R Moore
Mary E Moore
Velma Moore
Gayle Morris
Bea Morrison
Fay Mynett
Verdella Nelson
Eric Corlhim Nygren
Rosalia D. Nygren
Richard Osborne
Lt. Herbert R. Osterhaus
Grace Peile
Donna Perkins
Elva Powell
Clara Powell
Dortha Ragsdale
Wallace Ragsdale
Gladys Rankin
Sgt Walter Ratcliff
Shirley Renfro (daughter of Lola Tant)
Alice Ricks
Guy Ripley
Adeline Roberts
Calvin Roberts
Howard Roberts
Hazel Roderick
James Roderick
Joyce Sawyer
Geo. R. Schofield
Ruby Sharpe
Norma Shaw
John B. Short
Charles Small
Joe Small
Mary Smith
Cora Snead
Jerry Snead
Jocephine Snead
Claude R Snead (owned property on Ball Road)
Dot Stockton
Alice Stone
Jimmy Stone
Lola Tant
Claire Trueblood
Bertha Uhrich
Dick Uhrich
Billie Vestal (lived on Butte Falls Hwy, had accent possibly English)
Dorothy Vieaux
Luceil S. Vieaux
Catherine Walch
Clara Walch
Margie Walch (daughter of Lola Tant, wife of Ken Walch)
Maxine Walch (Peile)
Myrtle Walch (wife of Bill Walch)
Willard Walch
Diana Wheeler
Lolly Wheeler
Esther Whipple

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Scenes from the past

Riding their horses to the Lost Creek School were , top photo, from left, Blanche, Meryle and Grace Miller, whose parents, John and Elva Miller, below, lived in what is now known as the Hostettler house. Photos courtesy of Pat Wastson, daughter of Grace Miller Crawford.

Signatures

Continued from page 8

Edith Whipple
Carrie Whitehead (daughter of Lola Tant)
Leo Wine
Anna Mae Wine
Aulda Williams
Jay Williams
Nettie Williams
Frank Wilkin
Sallie Wilkin
Harry Wilson
Myrtle Wilson
Dorothy Wright
Harry Wright
Lillian Wright
Lois Wright (40
Tommie & Edith Wright
T H Wright
Vera Wright
Agnes Wyant
Ralph Wyant
Fern Wyant
Burrell Wyant
Darl Young
Donna Young
Harold Zundel
Beth Zundel

Grant may fund signs

The Lake Creek Historical Society has applied to the Oregon Tourism Matching Grant program for funds to build two interpretive signs. One will be near the Nimrod Charley cabin and the other at the Lost Creek Covered Bridge.

The signs will explain the history, and will include old photographs and other information about the structures.

The Society is looking for more information on the Charley cabin and for photos of the Charley home that was located near it. (For more about the cabin, see story and photos on pages 10-11.)

PHOTO COURTESY JEANNIE BRUCE

The Nimrod Charley cabin sat at the edge of a meadow, and was becoming engulfed by the surrounding woods.

Preserved cabin has strong ties to past

If there's an appropriate piece of Lake Creek history to be preserved, the Nimrod Charley cabin has to be a top candidate.

The Charley family came to Southern Oregon in 1875, homesteading first in Climax and then spreading across the area. Lake Creek, Eagle Point, Central Point and Medford all have descendants of this prolific family.

The oldest son of William and Andromeda "Meda" Hurst Charley, Nimrod came to visit an uncle, Martin Hurst, on his ranch on what is now Riley Road. Nimrod must have written glowing accounts of the opportunities, because William and Meda decided to move, boarding a train near their home in Indiana and taking a stage to Oregon from the railroad terminus at Redding.

Nimrod homesteaded on Charley Creek, and William later took out a homestead nearby. In 1901 William bought land near Climax at the head of Antelope Creek, which became a Charley family home for several generations.

The Charleys operated a sawmill on Charley Creek below the homestead, recalled Don Grissom. Grissom grew up on the Courtney Place, a few miles downstream from the Nimrod Charley cabin.

By the time Grissom's parents got there in 1892, the Charleys were well established, Grissom said. The orchards were mature and the family had a nice two-story home built.

"Dad told me that Nimrod logged with two teams of Hereford bulls," Grissom said. "They didn't move very fast, but they got the job done."

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Charley cabin has many tales

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The Charleys built a wood structure a half-mile long that allowed them to roll logs on to it and slide them down to the mill.

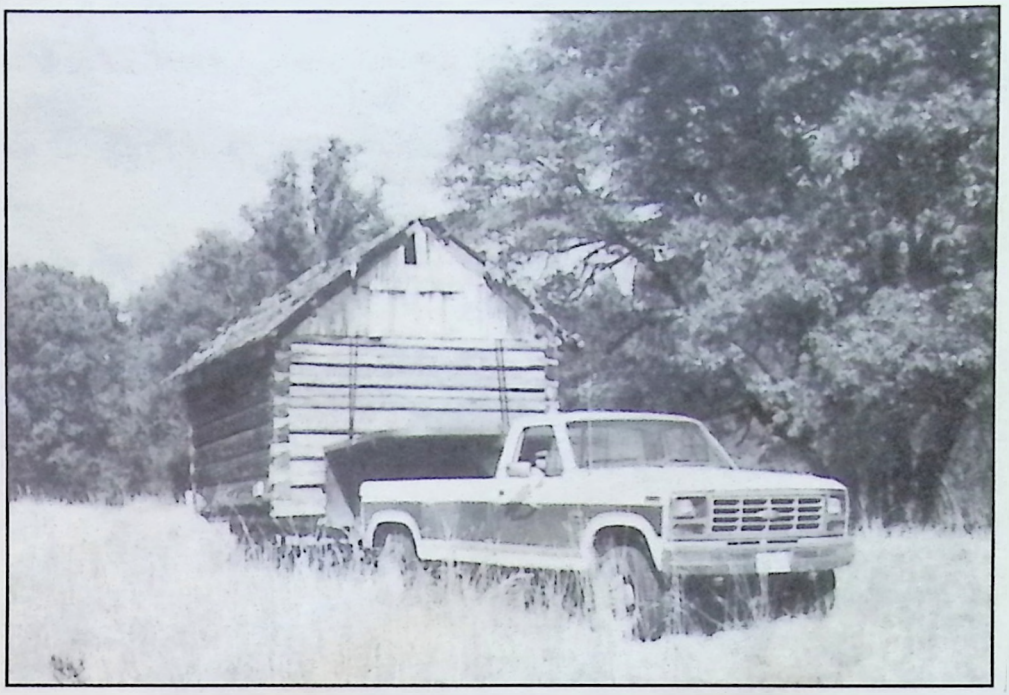
"They cut all trees eight feet above the ground so there would be no swell on the stump, and they took only the very best trees," Grissom said. After sawing, the Charleys hauled the lumber to Eagle Point to get them planed.

Distances between places being what they were, neighbors would sometimes visit to meet their needs for socializing.

"Nimrod would come and stay the night with us and visit, off and on," Grissom said. "That was part of getting along."

Nimrod was a fiddler, Grissom recalled, and a big man, but his son, Walter was even bigger. "Walter lived up there and homesteaded below Nimrod's place," Grissom said. "He had his cabin and a wood-working shop powered with water."

Nimrod is described as "living up to his name," according to an account written by Ernestyn and Clinton Charley. (A nimrod is a great hunter or sportsman). "Although he was a rather timid, shy man in many ways, he was a courageous hunter," the account continues. "He ran bear, cougar, bobcats and raccoons. He loved the dogs that were his close partners. Many is the time that one of his dogs would tie into a cougar and Nimrod would have to get in and hit the cat over the head with the butt of the gun, not being able to shoot for fear of hitting his dog. ...



The cabin en route to Lake Creek, saved from loss by further decay.

"Although Nimrod helped his father build and operate a mill at Climax and later helped his son Walter build and run mills, his heart was in hunting and gardening. He had two green thumbs and raised huge gardens, supplying vegetables to friends and neighbors. He took immense pride in growing bigger watermelon, pumpkin or squash than the year before. Besides the regular vegetable farming he raised chickens, pigs, goats and cattle."

Nimrod had three children by his first wife, Mary Frances Hurst: Walter Floyd, Ralph and Andromeda Viola. He also had three children by his second wife, Mary Houk: Milroy, Menifee and Evaline.

Grissom's family acquired the homestead in 1918.

"When I was feeding sheep in the 1930s I split the shakes and reroofed that cabin," Grissom said. "It was old then."

The Charley children went to the Grissom schoolhouse on Lake Creek, not far from the present location of the Glenn Jackson Dam. Among the teachers there were Mrs. Jack Terrell and Amy Grissom.

Many is the time that one of his dogs would tie into a cougar and Nimrod would have to get in and hit the cat over the head with the butt of the gun, not being able to shoot for fear of hitting his dog.

Sources: Don Grissom, Clinton Charley oral history, The Charley Family History.

Be a part of History!

Join the

LAKE CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Phone (Day)_____ (Evening) _____

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Please check the membership category below, and mail this form with your check to:

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Eagle Point OR 97524

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❑ *Yes! I want to be involved as a Lake Creek Historical Society Volunteer!*

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